

Appl. No. 10/036,992
Response Dated September 30, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated July 2, 2003

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Introductory Remarks

Applicants respectfully submit that the declaration of Sherif Safwat, particularly Exhibits C and D thereto, received by the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") on May 30, 2003, irrefutably demonstrates that all Office Actions in this application which reject claims based upon the Haller patent have erroneously interpreted¹ that reference's disclosure. Therefore, in this response Applicants insist either:

1. that all rejections of claims based upon the disclosure of the Haller patent be withdrawn; or
2. that any subsequent Office Action rejecting claims based upon the Haller patent:
 - a. include graphical evidence, similar to that presented in Exhibits C and D of Sherif Safwat's declaration, regarding the two ends of one twine 59 and 60; and
 - b. a text which supports and explains that portion of the Office Action's interpretation of that reference's disclosure regarding the two ends of

¹ The rejection of claims pending in this application for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based upon the Haller patent necessarily relies upon an interpretation of that reference's FIGs. 1-5 because nowhere does that reference's text disclose or describe whether the two ends of one twine 59 and 60 depicted in FIGs. 1-5 are right handed or left handed.

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one twine 59 and 60 which the declaration of Sheriff Safwat received May 30, 2003 contradicts.

Applicants further note that, for the reasons set forth in greater detail below, the interpretation of the disclosure of the Haller patent regarding the two ends of one twine 59 and 60 in all Office Actions is irrelevant to this patent application's invention as presently encompassed by the texts of pending claims 133-135. Therefore, in this response Applicants insist either:

1. that all rejections of claims based upon the disclosure of the Haller patent be withdrawn; or
2. that any subsequent Office Action rejecting claims based upon the Haller patent apply that reference:
 - a. to the texts of pending claims 133-135, and
 - b. not to some hypothetical claim text that does not appear and is not pending in the application.